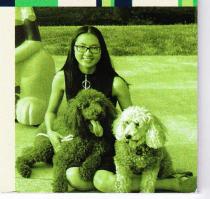
THE MAGAZINE FROM SUBARU

## COMMUNITY CHAMPS Meet six outstanding Subaru owners doing extraordinary work in their communities. P. 24

WINTER 2021

The all-new Forester Wilderness hits the road. P. 10

A father-son bond over Subaru, from Greece to the U.S. P. 34



1

(R)



walkinmyshoesprogram.org

Herndon, Virginia

## Vehicle: 2021 Crosstrek

✿ ♦

## Helping Kids Grow Margaret Behrns

Founder of: Walk In My Shoes, a program designed to shift attitudes and foster inclusion in schools regarding students with medical conditions, learning differences and developmental delays

I was a special education parent liaison for a local elementary school for seven years, from 2012 to 2019. In my work, you get to meet parents going through all sorts of challenges. But one thing that unites us all is the hope that all children will be accepted, that they won't be bullied, and that they will feel respected and safe. That's where we come in at Walk In My Shoes.

Walk In My Shoes is an assembly-type program that takes place once a year. Kids come to the cafeteria and go from station to station learning about the differences between abilities. They take the

Photo: Margaret Behrns

perspective of kids who have a particular challenge. For example, we'll have a table with coloring materials and a student will color with a sash tied to their arm. Another student will tug the sash from the other side of the table to show what it feels like to have varying motor skill functions.

Ultimately, it's the way our environments are set up that causes the conflict, not the disability itself. Then, the kids will have a guided brainstorming session to talk about what they can do to be a valuable friend.

I created a guide on how to re-create the

program at different schools, and now it's in 15 schools in my county. As we grew, I got the attention of advocates - people with disabilities coming to me to be more comprehensive. Listening to them, I knew we needed to do more. I partnered with a Ph.D. in curriculum writing in education. She is taking my assembly program and turning it into a yearlong curriculum that schools can use."



